

Report

Bhāratīya Vidyā Mein Nārī Evam Vartamān Media
20th August, 2019
At Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, New Delhi

A symposium was organized by WAVES-India and its youth wing Tarun-Tarang which was presided by Prof. Bal Ram Singh, Director, Institute of Advanced Sciences, Dartmouth, USA and Member, Board, WAVES-International. On this occasion, Dr. Meera Dwivedi, Associate Prof. of Sanskrit, University of Delhi was the chief speaker; and Dr. Shashi Tiwari, President, WAVES; Ms. Gunjan Pradhan Sinha, Journalist and Former Asst. Professor, St. Stephens College, University of Delhi; Dr. Jyoti Raj, Asst. Prof., Sanskrit, SPM College, University of Delhi and Anchor, Sanskrit News, Doordarshan; and Sh. Narayan Dutt Mishra, Anchor, Sanskrit, Doordarshan and Asst. Professor, Sanskrit, Jawaharlal Nehru University were other speakers. Program begun with Vedic invocation presented by Prakash Pandey, Sanskrit Student of DU. Dr. Ranjit Behera, Associate Professor, Sanskrit, University of Delhi and Secretary, WAVES moderated the session and introduced the theme and speakers of the symposium.



Speakers & Chairperson on Dias

Prof. Meera Dwivedi gave enlightening talk by narrating various examples of strong distinctive women of classical Sanskrit literature. She quoted poets like Kālidāsa and referred legendary women from past such as Śākuntalā. ‘*Kaumudī Mahotsav*’ drama is well known for Śiva-Pārvatī *samvād* for learning strong character of Goddess Pārvatī. She referred many Vedic Rīśikās for their glorious lives such as Gārgī, Lopamudrā etc. She quoted numerous Vedic words for woman such as *Ātmajā*, and explained their significance.

Dr. Shashi Tiwari started her talk with the role, importance and responsibility of media in projecting the status of women in current society. Generally criticism done by media presents negative picture of women and also talk about wrong treatment done with her in family. Vedic scriptures reflect her ideal picture and exemplary role. Gradually restrictions on her were put by Smriti texts but most of the time with appropriate reasons. In medieval period her situation deteriorated, education was restricted, and early marriage started due to various reasons including the political too.

Sh. Narayan Dutt Mishra talked about ‘women empowerment’ on the basis of grammarian literature of Sanskrit. He picked up few Sanskrit grammar words like the word ‘*Pitrau*’ and

discussed the status of women. One should see the status of women globally. Cinema, internet, news channels, all these sources of media empower women but side by side they are a source of knowing deterioration in the image of today's women, he said.

If we look into the status of women since past we found that women in India has a consistent role in formation and enrichment of society said by Ms. Gunjan Pradhan Sinha. If we talk about the epic Mahābhārata, women like Kuntī, Gandhārī, Draupadī are there as examples of strong women of that era. Continuity of *dharma* and cultural values, which prevails throughout this great epic, is only due to these women. Modern India too have living examples of strong Indian women like Mother Teresa, Indira Gandhi, Sushma Swaraj etc. Indian women are always considered as multi-tasking personalities. There should be structural change in today's media as it never debates any such news that reveals the impact of natural calamities, and social accidents on women and children.

'Challenges for Women in Media' was the main theme of Dr. Jyoti Raj. She pointed out status and contribution of women mainly in the field of present journalism. Anchoring, reporting and editing are the fields where one can feel the biasedness towards women. After childbirth only 2% of Indian women are working in the fields like journalism. Dress code and odd timings are among the various issues that women face while reporting in news channels. It should be into consideration that women are emotionally sensitive so they are better news readers and do the best in reporting events.

Prof. Lallan Prasad, Member, GC, WAVES recited few lines from his under-published *Khand-Kāvya* on *Panchālī*. On this occasion, WAVES newsletter 2019 issue got released by dignitaries on Dias along with editors of WAVES newsletter.



Release of WAVES Newsletter 2019

In his presidential address, Prof. Bal Ram Singh appreciated all the speakers for raising their concerns regarding the challenges faced by women in society. He said, we always think and talk about the status held by women in past and in the present times but never discuss 'what ought to be' especially by us. We should give this vision to our students. A framework of Vedic value system should be created so that society can follow it as a guide. According to him, women of today's era are empowered enough in every field. As a biochemist scientist, he shared the data of conceived girls. He said considerably still birth deaths are more in boys instead of girls. Neurologically women have more strength and skills than men. Females appear sensitive but due to their right brain they are much active in function in comparison to men.



A View of Audience

Many members of WAVES and its youth wing were present in the audience such as, Dr. Dharma, Dr. Ravi P. Bhatia, Prof. Bhu Dev Sharma, Sh. Vidya Sagar Verma, Sh. Y.K.Wadhwa, Dr. Neelam Gaur, Dr. Karuna Arya, Dr. B.K. Tiwari, Mrs. Rekha Singh, Dr. Cynthia, Sh. Sanjay Sharma, Dr. Chand Bhardwaj, Sh. R.N. Pandey, Dr. Pravesh Saxena, Dr. Urmil Rastogi, Dr. Kamna Vimal Sharma, Dr. R.S. Kaushal, Dr. Usha Kataria, Dr. Saroj Chawla. From Tarun-Tarang many members were present such as, Dr. Rakshita, Ms. Anuja Sinha, Sh. Yogendra Bhardwaj, Sh. Vikas Sharma, and Ms. Preeti Verma, Ms Suruchi Sharma. Finally, Sh. Prem Deoli, from Tarun-Tarang presented vote of thanks to the chairperson, speakers and the audience. Program ended with *Shāntipāth*.

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By WAVES